(b) whether it is a tact that the trade suffered losses during last year 4ue to • disturbances in Darjeeling] area;

(c) if so, i.he extr.nt of loss suiierea and

(d) what steps are being; taken to Increase the tea trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The volume of tea available for trade ig 1986 was estimated a! 616.75 M. Kgs. as agains! 657 M. Kgs. in] 1985.

' 'b) ani"; (c) Despite occasional disturnances in ths district of Darjeeling tea trade has been functioning normally.

(d) T_0 increase production of tea Government 'nave taken a number of mea-which $includ_e$ short term measures like optimization of inputs, medium term measures like irrigation and drainage, infilling and rejuvenation of tea bushes an_a k«ig term measures like extension and replanting. Measures taken $t_{,D}$' increase exports include assistance for brand promotion and warehousing abroad ^{as} well as' cash compensatory support on ^{va,ue} added teas. Te_a Board undertakes promotional campaign through it_3 offices abroad.

Chinese Spokesman's Statement on Military threat from China

1630. SHB.lMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government ire aware *oi* the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman's statement describing Indian Defence Ministry report about military threat from China as "nothing bu* sheer nonsense"; if so. what Is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) what is Government's reaction the Chinese spokesman's statement that large tracts of Chinese territory have been occupied by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEI-RO>: (a) Yes. Sir. Government holds *A* different view.

(b) Government is of the view that $Indi_a$ doe_s not occupy $Cnines_e$ territory. It is our policy to strive for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question wit_n China and to preserve t_0 resolve disputes through peaceful negotiations.

Development of powerlooms

1631. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSH-ANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please^, to state;

(a) whether any task force has been set up by Government to assess . the existing development of credit to powerlooms in the decentralised sectors and to augment its availability for their[1] modernisation! and working capital; and

(b) if so, what are the details lu»>'* ! of?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Task Force Vias bee_n set j up $unde_r$ the Chairmanship of the I Textile Commissioner to study and assess the existing flow of creo.it and to suggest measures to augment availability of credit to powerlooms in the decentralised sector. The Task Force has been asked to submit its report in t tour months' time.